

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 19. (Canceled)

Claim 20 (New) The polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst comprising a Lewis acid group expressed by the following general formula (II):



wherein M represents a lanthanoid element, X represents an anionic group, n is an integer representing the valence of M, and R^o represents a SO₃ or SO₄ group, said Lewis acid group being bonded to a polymeric chain via a spacer chain, wherein the spacer chain is a hydrocarbon group.

Claim 21 (New) A polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst comprising a Lewis acid group expressed by the following general formula (II):



wherein M represents a lanthanoid element, X represents an anionic group, n is an integer representing the valence of M, and R^o represents a SO₃ or SO₄ group, said Lewis acid group being bonded to a polymeric chain via a spacer chain, wherein the spacer chain is expressed by the following general formula (III):



wherein Ph represents a phenyl group, and m and l each represent an integer greater than or equal to 1.

Claim 22 (New) The polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst of claims 20 or 21, wherein the polymeric chain comprises a polymer obtained by the addition polymerization of aromatic monomers.

Claim 23 (New) A method of organic synthesis which comprises conducting an organic reaction using the polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst of claims 20 or 21, wherein the reaction is performed in water or an aqueous medium.

Claim 24 (New) The method of organic synthesis according to claim 23, which comprises the formation of a carbon-carbon bond.

Claim 25 (New) The polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst of claims 20 or 21, wherein X is a halogen atom or an organic acid group.

Claim 26 (New) The polymer-supported Lewis acid catalyst of claims 20 or 21, wherein X is a perfluoroalkyl sulfonate group.